



Brandeis University

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President

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Dear Friends,

Although the summer is several months behind us, I would like to begin my fall letter by letting you know how active Brandeis was last summer. In early June, the Brandeis University National Women's Committee inaugurated **Joyce Krasnow** as president during its biennial conference held on campus. As part of the program, **Gerda Weissman Klein**, a Holocaust survivor, Academy Award winner and human rights activist, received the Sachar Medallion, named for Brandeis's founding president, **Abram Sachar**. **Sidney Blumenthal '69**, a former assistant to President **Bill Clinton** and author of *The Clinton Wars*, addressed the delegates. The next week, alumni returned to the University and **David L. Crane '79**, **Myra Hiatt Kraft '64**, and **Walter S. Mossberg '69** received the alumni achievement awards.

Later in June, Shula and I joined about 35 Brandeis alumni and friends to tour the eastern coast of Sicily. Several of the participants had traveled with us two years earlier on the Greek island of Poros. Next June, we will be off to Moscow to sail down the Volga. We encourage anyone who would like to join us to learn more and register quickly; click on "Special Programs" on the alumni relations Website, alumni.brandeis.edu.

In July and August, Brandeis in the Berkshires took place once again at the Cranwell Resort, Spa and Golf Club in Lenox, Massachusetts. The three themes of 2004 were the modern Middle East, the future of contemporary Judaism, and American fiction and politics. Each session hosted a major public address, the first by former Texas Governor and Brandeis Trustee **Ann W. Richards**; the second by Rabbi **Irwin Kula**, president of the National Jewish Center for Leadership and Learning; and the last by **Alice Hoffman**, best-selling novelist. Brandeis in the Berkshires participants attended performances at Shakespeare & Company, Jacob's Pillow, and Tanglewood. We owe special thanks to **Harold Grinspoon** for his generous support of Brandeis in the Berkshires and to the members of the Advisory Council, who provide intellectual and marketing direction.

For the first time this past July and August, the University sponsored the Wednesday evening concert program at the Hatch Shell on the Charles River. Brandeis launched a series of ads with local classical radio station WCRB to promote the University as a destination point for the enjoyment of the arts.

This summer, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer **Peter French** and his staff launched a major project to upgrade the infrastructure of the University. This \$25 million effort focused on deferred maintenance, upgrading classrooms and energy systems.

In mid-July, Gralla Fellows, journalists representing regional newspapers from all over the country, met at Brandeis to learn about the latest topics in American Jewish life and trends relevant to reporting on religion. **Milton and Shirley Gralla** attended sessions and also visited the Genesis program, Brandeis's intensive summer workshops for high school students, which link topical coursework with Jewish studies, a program generously supported by **Shirley Gralla**. Also this summer **Tim Morehouse '00**, a saber specialist, served as first alternate for the American fencing team at the Olympic Games in Athens.

Students and Parents—Fall 2004

As summer turned to fall, we welcomed 766 members of the Class of 2008, as well as students admitted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, and the Brandeis International Business School. Undergraduate application trends continued to reflect higher numbers of applicants and greater selectivity.

All of our incoming first-year students were sent *Mountains Beyond Mountains: Healing the World: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer* by **Tracy Kidder** as part of the Helen and Philip Brecher New Student Forum. During Orientation, dozens of faculty members met with new students in small groups to discuss the book and then everyone gathered at Spingold Theater to debate with the author.

The Shapiro Campus Center Theater has been extremely busy this fall with the Undergraduate Theater Collective's performances of *Arcadia* and the musical comedy *Murders of 1940*, which drew crowds of students and parents during Fall Fest. Having an excellent theater facility for undergraduates was one of our goals in building the Shapiro Campus Center.

To kick off the fall sports program, students organized a huge pep rally 'Louispalooza'. Students also wowed each other, parents and homecoming guests at the 2004 Variety Show. I was amazed at the quality of the acts. Performances included the Brandeis student orchestra playing "Highlights from Jurassic Park," the Ballroom Dance Team, the Tango Society, the Brandeis Liondance Troupe and several Brandeis *a capella* groups. It was a spectacular evening.

Recognizing the desire of parents to keep abreast of the opportunities and challenges encountered by their sons and daughters at Brandeis, the *Brandeis Reporter*, which all parents of current students receive, has added a "Just for Parents" column. One issue each semester will also include a pull-out calendar of that semester's events, holidays and deadlines.

In October, students and faculty launched a new Website, www.4collegewomen.org, that offers free and reliable health information to college-age women everywhere. The site is the brainchild of U.S. Assistant Surgeon General **Susan J. Blumenthal**, M.D., M.P.A., Distinguished Visiting Professor in Women's Studies at Brandeis, who developed it with undergraduate students and sociologist **Shulamit Reinharz**, Ph.D. '77, Jacob S. Potofsky Professor of Sociology and founding director of the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis.

Brandeis commemorated the 350th anniversary of American Jewish life with a conference cosponsored with the American Jewish Committee. "The Meaning of the American Jewish Experience" examined the role played by Jews in diverse aspects of American Life — society, religion and culture, and immigrant and minority groups. **Leon Jick**, professor emeritus of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies; **Jacqueline Jones**, Truman Professor of American Civilization; **Antony Polonsky**, Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies; and **Stephen Whitfield**, Ph.D. '72, Max Richter Professor of American Civilization, were among the distinguished participants.

Teaching and Faculty

As a liberal arts college within a research university, Brandeis is distinguished across the board in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, as the following examples of faculty awards and achievements attest.

Professor of Composition **Eric Chasalow** has been awarded a prestigious Aaron Copland composer residency. **Christopher Miller**, Professor of Biochemistry and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, received a 2004 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship to further his research on kidney disease and neurological disorders.

The MacArthur Foundation awarded \$750,000 to the National Scientific Council at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Led by Heller School Dean and Samuel F. and Rose B. Gingold Professor of Human Development **Jack Shonkoff**, the Council is poised to be the nation's leading resource on early child brain and behavior development. The landmark effort aims to close the gap between the science of childhood development and public policies designed to help children.

Professor of Neuroscience **Larry Abbott**, Ph.D. '77 was selected by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as one of the first recipients of its \$500,000, five-year Director's Pioneer Award, the purpose of which is to explore ideas with the potential to make extraordinary contributions to medical research in the fields of particle physics and neuroscience.

Three inspirational members of the Brandeis faculty received the 2003-04 Arts and Sciences Teaching Awards. Associate Professor of English and American Literature **Thomas King** received the Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer '69 and Joseph Neubauer Prize for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring. Assistant Professor of Psychology **Derek Isaacowitz** was honored with the Michael L. Walzer '56 Award for Teaching for a tenure-track faculty member who "combines scholarship with inspired teaching." Poet-in-Residence and Director of the Creative Writing Program **Olga Broumas** received the Louis Dembitz Brandeis Prize for Excellence in Teaching. She redesigned and expanded the creative writing major, while advising all majors and minors in the program.

Mari Fitzduff, Professor of Coexistence and Director of the Master's Program in Intercommunal Coexistence, opened the new Master's Program in Coexistence and Conflict and welcomed its first fall class of fourteen graduate students from eight different countries. The program provides students with a solid grounding in the theories of coexistence and the professional skills needed to design and implement successful interventions.

This fall, Brandeis launched the new Institute in Investigative Journalism under the leadership of **Florence Graves**, an investigative reporter and Scholar at the Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center. The Institute, which will bring outstanding investigative journalists to campus, is generously supported by **Elaine** and **Gerald Schuster**, who hosted a gala "kick off" reception at their home in Newton, Massachusetts, joined by three-time Pulitzer Prize-winner **Thomas L. Friedman '75**, foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times*, who also addressed the campus community at an overflow event in Spingold Theater.

Brandeis's Meet the Author series, established last year, continues with Brandeis authors speaking about their books and signing copies. This semester's line-up includes **Ibrahim Sundiata**, Samuel and Augusta Spector Professor of History, who discussed his new book, *Brothers and Strangers: Black Zion, Black Slavery, 1914-1940*; former Secretary of Labor **Robert Reich**, University Professor and the Maurice B. Hexter Professor of Social and Economic Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, discussed his book, *Reason: Why Liberals Will Win the Battle for America*; National Book Award Winner **Ha Jin**, Ph.D. '93, a professor at Boston University, spoke about his new novel, *War Trash*; and **Rosalind Barnett**, a Women's Studies Research Center Scholar, spoke about *Same Difference: How Gender Myths Are Hurting Our Relationships, Our Children and Our Jobs*.

To celebrate the creation of the faculty chair endowed by **Jeannette P. Lerman-Neubauer '69** and **Joseph Neubauer**, the University spent an afternoon discussing "Whither Democracy,?" addressing the legal, ethical and philosophical elements of modern democracy. Professor **Cass Sunstein**, noted scholar and jurist from the University of Chicago, was the featured speaker. The panel discussion on "The Future of Democracy" included Brandeis Professor **Bernard Yack**, who holds the Lerman-Neubauer Chair, and Professor **Marion Smiley**, the J.P. Morgan Chase Professor of Ethics, and professors **Jane Mansbridge** of Harvard and **Joshua Cohen** of MIT.

The Arts at Brandeis

The Rose Art Museum opened three shows that will run throughout the fall. Influenced by tantric mysticism and folklore from his adopted country, India, Italian painter **Francesco Clemente** weaves together archetypal symbols with images of everyday experience. Chinese artist **Yun-Fei Ji's** series of paintings, *The Empty City*, presents a visionary view of the displaced inhabitants and environmental destruction of China's Three Gorges Dam project. Artist and filmmaker **William Kentridge's** *Tide Table*, a distinctive animated film, has earned international acclaim and addresses the political and cultural climate of his native South Africa.

The Who's Tommy and Shakespeare's *King Lear* highlight the five-play season announced by Professor **Eric Hill** in his inaugural semester as department chair of the Theater Arts Program at Brandeis. The season also includes works by **Charles Ludlam**, **Naomi Iizuka**, and **Howard Barker** that use professional actors as guest artists, working side by side with graduate and undergraduate students. A gala reception at the Rose Art Museum will be hosted by **Barbara '54** and **Malcolm L. Sherman** to launch the new production of *Tommy* and welcome **Eric Hill** to the Theater Arts chair that bears their name.

The Slosberg Music Center's season is headlined by Brandeis's resident Lydian String Quartet, which will give four evening concerts this year, as well as free noon concerts one Wednesday each month. The Brandeis World Music Series, in its first season, is hosting Orchid Ensemble, Voice of the Turtle and Perú Negro. Brandeis Department of Music Concerts will also be featured. On October 2, the Festival of Women Composers was cosponsored by the Women's Studies Research Center.

Many of the October arts events share a concern for ethics. The Offices of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Communications, the Arts, and the Ethics Center created the umbrella title, "Art Unlocks the Ethical Imagination," to organize and stimulate important campus discussions on the issues raised by the many art exhibits and ethics events. A pocket guide encouraged students and visitors to make connections from event to event using a series of questions. Student groups held discussions throughout October. A new magazine, *State of the Arts*, has made its debut, offering schedules, articles and information about the major cultural events on the Brandeis campus.

Alumni and Friends

Trustee **Perry Traquina '78** hosted a wonderful scholarship luncheon this October. Over 150 guests, including Brandeis trustees, fellowship donors, scholarship students and administrators gathered at the Brandeis Faculty Club for lunch and conversation. This year's speaker, **Robin Katz '06**, reminded us all how student scholarships make the impossible possible for many students who go on to lead and change the world. I am very grateful for the scholarship support provided Brandeis by the Osher Foundation and the Wasserman Foundation.

The Alumni Leadership Retreat, under the guidance of Alumni Association President **Paul M. Zlotoff '72**, was held on the weekend of October 15-17. Titled "Brandeis Alumni Making a Difference" (BAMD), it brought together distinguished alumni, faculty and potential alumni leaders, who wish to hone their leadership skills in the service of their *alma mater*. I was joined at the event by **Eli Segal '64** and a number of University administrators, who briefed alumni on the current state and future goals of the University.

Recently, I traveled with Professor **Robert Reich**, who spoke at an alumni event in Chicago. A couple of weeks later, I was the dinner speaker at the Scarsdale, NY home of Trustee **Henry '86** and **Monica Aboodi**. In Miami, Florida, I spoke to an enthusiastic audience of Brandeis friends, parents and members of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee, who gathered at

the Porto Vita Club in Aventura. It was a wonderful evening, and I am grateful to our hosts, **Ronald and Minna Bakalarz**, parents of **Jonathan Bakalarz '97**.

I am pleased to report that **Jack N. and Lorraine Friedman** have generously contributed \$3.5 million to create the Jack N. and Lorraine Friedman Chair in Medical Policy. This new professorship will be a joint appointment between the Department of Sociology and The Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Brandeis is enormously grateful to the **Friedmans** for their outstanding commitment to the Academy and to student life through their previous gift of \$7 million for scholarships and to name one of the Village residence halls. The Heller School for Social Policy and Management recently announced to its Board of Overseers a major gift of \$3.5 million from Brandeis Trustee **Rhonda Zinner**.

The Campus and the Academy

The Integrated Planning Group, consisting of all of the senior officers, has been working together for the past nine months, studying the relationship of the various units of the University to Brandeis's overall goals and resources. Central to the planning process is an intensive study of the Academy led by Dean of Arts and Sciences **Adam Jaffe**.

On October 12, the University celebrated the opening of the Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex. Founding Trustee **Abraham Shapiro** worked tirelessly between 1946 and his premature death in 1949, to help build the University, drawing on his friendship with **Albert Einstein** and local Boston business leaders. His son, Trustee **Robert Shapiro '52**, and daughter-in-law, **Valya Shapiro '61**, provided the gift that transformed the former site of the American Jewish Historical Society into a beautifully configured academic building. The Complex is home to the Crown Center for Middle East Studies; the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life; the Education Program; the Hebrew and Arabic Languages Program; the Brandeis Investigative Journalism Institute; and the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education.

To celebrate its new headquarters in the Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex and to honor the **Mandel** Family, on November 18 the Mandel Center hosted the colloquium, "A Conversation with Visionary Educators," organized by **Sharon Feiman-Nemser**, Mandel Professor of Jewish Education and Director of the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education. The founding headmaster of the Gann Academy, The New Jewish High School of Greater Boston, Rabbi **Daniel Lehmann**, was the featured speaker. He was joined by **Deborah Meier**, a prolific author, founder of innovative schools and the recipient of a 1987 MacArthur Fellowship, who is currently the coprincipal of Mission Hill Elementary School in Boston. Former Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Brandeis Trustee **Dr. Theodore Sizer**, founder in 1984 of the Coalition of Essential Schools, also addressed the audience.

As many of you know, I have been interested in expanding Brandeis's intellectual contribution to an understanding of the Middle East. To that end, I have been engaged in conversation with **Dr.**

Sari Nusseibeh, President of Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem. A Ford Foundation planning grant has enabled our two institutions to explore possibilities for a long-term, cooperative partnership. As part of this effort, a team of six Brandeis faculty members and administrators visited Al-Quds University in December 2003, and a team of ten faculty members and administrators from Al-Quds visited Brandeis in September. Together, the two groups are now working on a series of proposals that will be presented to the Ford Foundation for funding.

In a related context, I am extremely pleased to report that, after an exhaustive international search, we have chosen **Dr. Shai Feldman** to direct the new Crown Center for Middle East Studies. **Dr. Feldman**, whose appointment begins in February 2005, is an expert in Middle Eastern affairs, Israeli studies and weapons and arms control in the Middle East. He currently heads the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, serves on the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. The Crown Center will be formally launched with a major conference in April 2005.

This semester, we welcome new Brandeis Trustees **E. John Rosenwald, Jr.** and **Theodore Sizer**. **Judy Pearson** joined the staff as the executive assistant to Senior Vice President for Students and Enrollment **Jean Eddy**. **Martin G. Ford** is the new Director of the Hiatt Career Center. He comes to Brandeis from Drexel University in Philadelphia, where he was Dean of Cooperative Education and Career Services. **Karen Engelbourg '79** returned to Brandeis last month to assume the position of Assistant Vice President for Alumni and University Relations. In February, we look forward to welcoming our new Vice President for Research, **Dr. Maria Pellegrini**, formerly Program Director for Science, Engineering and the Liberal Arts at the W.M. Keck Foundation. Dr. Pellegrini will also join the Department of Biology as a member of the faculty.

In a fall season, electric with excitement for the world champion Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots, we are also in the midst of prodigious activity at Brandeis. For those of you who look forward to the Rabb Seminar in Palm Beach in January, New York Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** will be our speaker. I trust that the intervening months between this and my next letter will be productive, fulfilling and peaceful for all of us.

With all good wishes for a safe and happy holiday season,

Sincerely,



Jehuda Reinharz